

### Abstract

The present invention relates to methods for isolating and storing, nucleic acid from a sample containing nucleic acid, such as a cell sample or cell lysate. The  
5 nucleic acid is isolated on a solid phase medium, which is then dried, and which can be stored efficiently, such as at room temperature, in columns, tubes, and microwell plates having a wide variety of filters and other solid phase media, for extended periods of time, including days, weeks, and months. The invention provides methods for isolating and storing nucleic acid from a sample by applying the sample to a solid  
10 phase medium, retaining the cells, lysing the cellular retentate, drying the medium and retaining the nucleic acid, storing the nucleic acid for extended periods of time at room temperature and humidity, and optionally eluting the nucleic acid. The invention provides methods for storing nucleic acid-containing samples on a wide range of solid phase media in many types of tubes, columns, or multiwell plates,  
15 many of which are commercial available.